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MY LITTLE PONY III

"Spike At Your Service"

Episode 307

Written by

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## TEASER

### INT. RARITY'S SHOPPE - DAY

RARITY is in her shop checking herself in the mirror, trying on A NEW HAT. She frowns, adjusting it one way, then another, then another, growing increasingly frustrated and disappointed. SPIKE stands nearby, looking on adoringly.

1        RARITY  
I spent hours making this hat but  
now I think it's wretched. What do  
you think, Spike?

2        SPIKE  
Wow, I love it, too. It's like the  
most wretched thing I've ever seen.

Rarity BLINKS at Spike for a beat.

3        RARITY  
Do you know what *wretched* even  
means? It means terrible, awful,  
an abomination.

4        SPIKE  
Oh, you mean like bad... but, like  
bad as in bad... or bad as in...  
(strikes hip hop pose)  
... baaaaad.

5        RARITY  
(rolling her eyes)  
Perhaps a well-selected  
accoutrement can salvage this  
travesty. Be a dear and fetch me a  
ribbon, would you?

6        SPIKE  
I'll be a dear! I'll fetch a  
ribbon!

Spike rushes over to some NEARBY BOXES and starts RUMMAGING  
noisily through them... then RUMMAGES some more.

7        RARITY  
I don't mean to rush you, but -

CRASH! Spike knocks over a lamp as he continues to RUMMAGE.

8        RARITY (CONT'D)  
- but sometime today would be nice.

Spike eagerly continues to RUMMAGE, until finally...

9 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Oh heavens, step aside. I'll get it.

10 SPIKE  
No, wait, I got ribbons. Loads of 'em.  
(showing her)  
I just can't figure out which one's best.

11 RARITY  
It's fairly obvious, really. I have on a turquoise hat, maroon pantaloons, and an aqua sash. Of course a cobalt ribbon would be best!

12 SPIKE  
But you'd look amazing no matter what ribbon you wore. If you wore the red ribbon, your eyes would still sparkle like cream soda. If you wore the orange ribbon, your mane would still have the silky gloss of fancy pajamas.

13 RARITY  
I'll just find the cobalt ribbon myself.

14 SPIKE  
No, no, no! Let me, let me!

Spike blocks her path and RUNS to the BOX OF BLUISH RIBBONS, and pulls one of the rolls out of it.

15 RARITY  
That's not cobalt. That's azure.

Spike offers another roll.

16 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Nope. That's indigo.

With undiminished enthusiasm, Spike reaches into the box and pulls out roll after roll of ribbon, through..

17 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Nope, cerulean.  
(then)  
(MORE)

RARITY (CONT'D)  
Nope, cornflower.  
(then)  
Nope, beryl...

18 SPIKE  
Wow, Rarity. You know so many cool  
crazy color names!  
(holds up another)  
I can't wait to find out what this  
one's called.

19 RARITY  
That's blue.

20 SPIKE  
Oh.

Spike flashes an embarrassed smile. Rarity looks annoyed.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER.

MAIN TITLES

ACT I

**INT. RARITY'S SHOPPE - LATER**

APPLEJACK is in Rarity's shop trying on a new pair of rubber boots Rarity made.

21 APPLEJACK  
Thanks for making me these new  
boots, Rarity. Man, how I itch to  
get back to workin' the land with  
these babies on. Why, they're just  
about perfect.

22 RARITY  
Yes, well, I paid special attention  
to the stitching to ensure that it  
would hold without drawing  
attention away from the glossy  
finish of the leather trim.

23 APPLEJACK  
(stomping around in them)  
All these bad boys still need is  
one teeny tiny thing.

Applejack crosses over to Rarity's windowsill, through...

24 RARITY  
Oh, I think I see what you mean. A  
pearl inlay. No, wait, I know - I  
can emboss it with an ever-so-  
subtle paisley -

Applejack uses mud from Rarity's recently-watered potted  
plants to SPLOTCH mud all over her new boots.

25 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Gaaah!!!!

26 APPLEJACK  
There. Perfect. What good's a  
pair of work boots if they ain't a  
total mess, am I right?

27 RARITY  
(horrified)  
If you... say so...

SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH... Applejack is by now serenely  
shoving her feet deep into the PLANT MUD.

28 APPLEJACK  
Ooh, that's good.

29 RARITY  
(squeaking)  
I can't watch.

Rarity squeezes her eyes closed just as Spike enters.

30 SPIKE  
Rarity, I -

31 RARITY  
(startled)  
Yaaaah!

Rarity STUMBLES backward, CRASHING into LAMPS and FURNITURE,  
knocking a plant over, which then SPILLS onto her head.

32 APPLEJACK  
There, ya see. Nothing like good  
old fashioned dirt, eh Rarity?

33 RARITY  
(simmering)  
You wanted something, Spike?

34 SPIKE

Just thought you should know I still haven't found you any crinkleberries yet, but don't you worry. I might be able to find some more time to keep searching.

35 RARITY

(uneasy)

Oh, that's quite all right. I'm sure Twilight must need you for something right now.

36 SPIKE

But I insist!

37 APPLEJACK

"Crinkleberries?" What the sweet apple cider is a crinkleberry?

38 SPIKE

It's a rare fruit Rarity uses to dye her fabrics fancy colors and stuff. Spike is on the case! Gotta go!

Spike DARTS out.

39 APPLEJACK

Hmm. I been around the block a few times but never heard me of a crinkleberry.

40 RARITY

Well, um... that might be because I, uh... completely made them up.

41 APPLEJACK

Say what now?

#### **INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER**

Twilight savors a rare moment alone, contentedly reading and snacking, just as Spike bursts in.

42 SPIKE

Twilight, I'm so sorry. There's something very important I have to do for Rarity.

A beat. Twilight keeps snacking and reading.

43 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Don't be mad, okay? It's just that I think Rarity really needs me right now, and I gave her my word I'd come through for her and you know how important it is for me to keep my word, so I just need a little more time, is that okay?

Another beat. Twilight keeps snacking and reading... then finally looks over, noticing Spike for the first time.

44 TWILIGHT

Oh hey, Spike. Were you saying something? Sorry, when I finally settle in to do a little pleasure reading I just get lost.

45 SPIKE

I got something I need to do.

46 TWILIGHT

Take all the time you need.

47 SPIKE

(fist pump)

Yes!

Spike BOLTS. Twilight gets back to snacking and reading.

**INT. RARITY'S SHOPPE - SAME TIME**

Applejack is in the midst of scolding Rarity.

48 APPLEJACK

You lied! That ain't right.

49 RARITY

Not a lie. No. More of a... mutually beneficial fabrication, really.

50 APPLEJACK

Otherwise known as a lie.

51 RARITY

Where's the harm? You saw yourself how excited Spike is to be on the hunt for crinkleberries.

52 APPLEJACK

Which don't exist.

53 RARITY

But he's having fun. Plus it gave me time to finish your work boots, which - let's be honest - would have taken me forever with Spike underfoot.

54 APPLEJACK

Hmm. Well. Still ain't right.

55 RARITY

I even had enough spare time left over to switch up my look a bit. I'm sure you must have noticed.

Rarity strikes a pose. A beat.

56 APPLEJACK

Say what again?

57 RARITY

My new look. The one you surely must have noticed but have yet to complement me on.

Rarity re-strikes her pose. Applejack looks harder. Rarity poses harder. Applejack looks even harder...

58 APPLEJACK

Yeah. Still don't see it.

59 RARITY

Uch! You have got to be kidding.

60 APPLEJACK

Stop changing the subject. You lied to Spike and you've got to make that right.

61 RARITY

Oh honestly, I know he means well, but he can be so... so pesky at times, I just had to find a way to get him out of my hair.

Applejack fixes Rarity with a disapproving glare.

62 RARITY (CONT'D)

(petulant sigh)

Oh all right. Fine. Next time I see Spike, I'll tell him there's no such thing as a crinkleberry.



63 APPLEJACK  
That's my girl.

64 RARITY  
Poo.

**EXT. PONYVILLE - LATER**

FLUTTERSHY sits enjoying the company of flowers and butterflies, though she's a little distracted by Spike, who DARTS this way and that, checking behind every bush and, quite literally, leaving no stone unturned.

65 FLUTTERSHY  
What's going on, Spike?

66 SPIKE  
Sorry, Fluttershy. No time to talk. Searching high and low for something Rarity needs super-badly, and I'll search every inch of Ponyville if that's what it takes.

Spike then stops to stare at Fluttershy.

67 SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Ahem.

68 FLUTTERSHY  
What?

Spike officiously points at her butt. Fluttershy lifts it. Spike looks underneath it but comes up empty.

69 SPIKE  
As you were.

Fluttershy sits back down as Spike exits.

**EXT. PONYVILLE - STILL LATER**

Pinkie Pie strolls along and Rarity, seeing her, trots over.

70 RARITY  
Yoo-hoo, Pinkie Pie.

71 PINKIE PIE  
Hey there, Rarity. And a yoo-hootie-hoo to you, too.

72 RARITY  
Have you noticed Spike around  
anywhere, by any chance?

73 PINKIE PIE  
Nopey-dope.

74 RARITY  
Oh, that's too bad.  
(then)  
But um, maybe now that you see me,  
perhaps there's something else  
you've noticed?

Rarity strikes a pose. Pinkie looks at her quizzically.

75 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Something different? Something  
new?

Rarity re-strikes her pose.

76 PINKIE PIE  
You're standing funny.

77 RARITY  
Yes. But something else.

A beat. Another beat. Another beat. Then...

78 PINKIE PIE  
All I see is the standing funny.

79 RARITY  
My eyelashes! They're a full  
quarter-inch longer. How is it  
that nobody sees that?

80 PINKIE PIE  
Sorry, Rarity... but I just found  
Spike for you, if that helps.

Rarity glances over in the direction Pinkie's looking.

ANGLE ON Spike nearby approaching RAINBOW DASH.

81 SPIKE  
Ooh, Rainbow Dash. Got a sec?

82 RAINBOW DASH  
Sure. What's up, little man?

83 SPIKE  
When you're up flying around the clouds and stuff, do you ever notice anything up there that resembles a berry?

84 RAINBOW DASH  
Huh?

85 RARITY (O.S.)  
Yoo-hoo, Spike.

86 SPIKE  
(to Rainbow Dash)  
Guess not. Gotta go. Keep an eye out though for me, would ya, sport?

Spike gives the mystified Rainbow Dash a couple of firm pats on the shoulder, then heads off to greet Rarity.

87 RARITY  
There you are, Spike. I've been searching everywhere for you.

88 SPIKE  
For me? Really?  
(hopeful)  
You missed me?

89 RARITY  
Not exactly.

90 SPIKE  
Oh.

91 RARITY  
But I do have something important to say. This isn't easy to admit, but -

92 SPIKE  
Wait a second. Is there something different about your look?

93 RARITY  
Why, I'm not sure. Perhaps. I mean, I suppose it's possible.

Rarity strikes her pose.

94 SPIKE  
It's your eyelashes, isn't it?  
They're like, what, five-eighths of  
an inch longer?

95 RARITY  
Maybe just a quarter-inch...

96 SPIKE  
No, more like five-eighths. And  
your coat is ever-so-slightly  
brighter, too.

97 RARITY  
It is? Really? Wow, I hadn't  
really even noticed that myself-

98 SPIKE  
You must be using a different body  
wash, because I'm also detecting a  
slightly different fragrance.

Spike starts SNIFFING her. Rarity grows uncomfortable.

99 RARITY  
I think you usually smell of...  
(sniff)  
... honeysuckle, but this is more  
of a...  
(sniff)  
... lavender, or maybe a...  
(sniff)  
... calendula -

100 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Don't you have some crinkleberries  
you should be looking for?

101 SPIKE  
Right!

Spike is off like shot. Only then does Rarity realize what  
she's just done, flopping down in frustration.

102 RARITY  
Ohhhh... Rarity... why is the truth  
so hard sometimes? Why? Argh...

Rarity knocks her own hoof repeatedly against her noggin...  
then suddenly stops.

103 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Oh dear. I hope I didn't just mess  
up my eyelashes.

Rarity WHIPS out a mirror to examine her reflection.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - A LITTLE LATER**

Applejack stands knee deep in a MARSH, using a POOL SKIMMER NET to collect apples that have fallen off the overhanging trees.

A BIRD happens by and hovers, CHIRPING.

104 APPLEJACK  
(to bird)  
So you think you got it good, do  
ya? Well, I wouldn't trade places  
with you for a minute. Scooping  
apples, standing knee deep in  
mud... I tell ya, this is the life.

The bird CHIRPS some more.

105 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)  
Oh yeah? Well, I can make music  
too, ya know.

Applejack lifts her feet to a beat, the SUCTION from the mud making its own sort of strange music: SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH... when suddenly...

... SPIKE pops his head up out of the pond, right in front of Applejack, wearing a SNORKLE.

106 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)  
(startled)  
Yaaah!

107 SPIKE  
Whoops, sorry AJ. Whatcha doing?

108 APPLEJACK  
The same old stuff I do every day  
to look after Sweet Apple Acres...  
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)  
also known as my favorite stuff to  
do in the whole wide world.  
(then)  
But, if ya ask me, it's what you're  
up to that requires the explainin'.

109 SPIKE  
Man, I'm still coming up empty on  
that crinkleberry thing. Then I  
realized I hadn't checked  
underwater yet. Duh.  
(then)  
No luck, though. Gotta go try  
Everfree Forest next. See ya.

Spike scampers out the pond, but Applejack stops him.

110 APPLEJACK  
Whoa there, little fella. Didn't  
Rarity talk to you about this  
already since I saw you last?

111 SPIKE  
Yeah she did. She said "don't you  
have any crinkleberries you should  
be looking for?" Why?

112 APPLEJACK  
Oh, no reason.

113 SPIKE  
Gotta run. Got some crinkleberries  
I should be looking for.

Spike DARTS off toward Everfree Forest.

Applejack fumes, then tries to shake it off.

114 APPLEJACK  
Forget it, Applejack. Just get  
back to work doin' what you love.

Applejack halfheartedly gets back to skimming apples... then  
throws down the skimmer net.

115 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)  
Dang it!

She STOMPS out of the pond: SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH, SPLORTCH...  
and marches off TOWARD PONYVILLE, through...

116 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)  
Rarity was supposed to tell Spike  
crinkleberries are all made up.  
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)  
So now I'm supposed to do her dirty  
work for her?  
(then, re: muddy boots)  
I mean, I like dirty work, don't  
get me wrong... but not *that* kinda  
dirty work. Rarity's gonna fix  
this herself, I'll see to that.

A distant ROAR can now be heard coming from the Everfree  
Forest behind her.

117 SPIKE  
(in the distance)  
Help! Somebody! Helllllp!

Alarmed, Applejack turns around to face the Everyfree Forest.

**EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - MOMENTS LATER**

Applejack runs through the woods, looking about frantically.

118 APPLEJACK  
Spike? Spike! Where are you?

ANGLE ON Spike cowering under a giant, menacing PANTHEON... a  
panther with the hooves of a boar.

119 SPIKE  
O-o-o-o-over h-h-h-h-ere.

120 PANTHEON  
<terrifying roar>

Applejack reacts, then casts a last glance back at Ponyville.

121 APPLEJACK  
(shouting impotently)  
Way to go, Rarity! You should be  
the one fixing this, too, since  
it's also obviously all your fault!

122 PANTHEON  
<horrifying roar>

Applejack turns back toward the danger, filling with resolve.

123 APPLEJACK  
I just hope she's really miserable  
right now!

Then, as Applejack LEAPS into harms way...

124 PANTHEON  
<more terrible roaring>

CUT TO:

**EXT. PONYVILLE - SAME TIME**

Rarity sits, looking glum.

125 RARITY  
<heavy sigh>

Pinkie Pie comes SKIPPING ALONG.

126 PINKIE PIE  
La la la la la la la...

At first Pinkie skips right past Rarity, but then Pinkie Pie HITS THE "BRAKES", then doubles back to check on her friend.

127 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)  
What's the matter, Rarity? You  
look sad.

128 RARITY  
Yeah, I guess so.

129 PINKIE PIE  
What's wrong? Nobody noticing your  
new look?

130 RARITY  
I dunno... well, I suppose that  
could be part of it, yeah...

131 PINKIE PIE  
Hold on. Let's see what we can do.

Pinkie Pie SKIPS back off screen from where she came.

A beat.

Pinkie Pie comes SKIPPING by again...

132 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)  
La la la la la la la...

... but this time stops to marvel at Rarity.

133 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)  
Oh my, Rarity. There's something  
new about you, isn't there.



134 RARITY  
(perking up)  
Oh? You noticed?

135 PINKIE PIE  
How could I miss it? Your  
eyelashes are like way way longer.

136 RARITY  
No, that's not different! They  
were this way the last time you saw  
me, which means they're not new  
anymore, and anyway I told you  
about them already so it doesn't  
even count. How come nobody  
notices anything anymore?

137 PINKIE PIE  
(helpfully)  
You're having a hissy fit. I  
noticed that.

138 RARITY  
My mane - it's parted on the other  
side. I did this hours ago! Three  
hours I've had it like this and not  
a word from anyone!

A beat.

139 PINKIE PIE  
Wait. Let me try again.

Pinkie zips off and comes skipping back in again.

140 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)  
La la la la la -

141 RARITY  
(waving Pinkie off)  
Nevermind.

EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - SAME TIME

Applejack faces down the pantheon.

142 APPLEJACK  
Come and get me, ya big goon!

The pantheon abandons Spike and begins chasing Applejack.

143 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)  
(running away)  
Now's your chance, Spike! Run!

144 SPIKE  
Don't worry. I'm running! I'm  
running!

145 PANTHEON  
<mighty roar>

Applejack flees toward a nearby PILE OF BOULDERS, with the pantheon in HOT PURSUIT.

Applejack now appears to be cornered, but then she steps behind a mound of the SMALLER BOULDERS, and - rearing and kicking - begins FIRING THEM at the pantheon, one after another in rapid succession, BARRAGING it.

146 PANTHEON (CONT'D)  
<bewildered roar>

Soon the pantheon has a sufficient pummelling that it TURNS TAIL and FLEES back into the forest.

Spike, completely awed, rushes over to Applejack.

147 SPIKE  
Wow, Applejack - that was amazing.  
You saved my life!

148 APPLEJACK  
Aw, don't mention it. C'mon, we  
should be headin' on back now.

Applejack turns to go, but Spike's still blown away.

149 SPIKE  
I mean you rocketed those boulders  
at him like they were... rockets.  
Pow! Pow! Pow! Pow!

150 APPLEJACK  
I suppose I did. Now you head on  
back to see Rarity, y'hear. She's  
got somethin' long overdue to tell  
you about them crinkleberries that  
got us all into this mess.

151 SPIKE  
The first one got him - pop - right  
in the face.  
(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Then a couple more were body shots.  
Then again - right in the schnoz!

152 APPLEJACK

Yeah, yeah. Okay. Run along now.

153 SPIKE

I'll see you in just a bit!

Spike RUNS off.

154 APPLEJACK

See me? Why?

**EXT. PONYVILLE - LATER**

Rarity wanders around morosely.

Then, seeing Fluttershy approach, she strikes a BIG SMILEY POSE.

155 FLUTTERSHY

Why hello there, Rarity.

Fluttershy simply walks right on by. Seeing Fluttershy hasn't noticed anything, Rarity DROPS HER POSE and morosely wanders on.

Then, seeing Rainbow Dash approach, she strikes ANOTHER BIG SMILEY POSE.

156 RAINBOW DASH

Hey Rarity. 'Sup.

Rainbow Dash keeps walking right on by. Rarity droops again.

Rarity walks on, then notices her reflection in a puddle.

157 RARITY

(to reflection)

Oh my, Rarity. So lovely to see  
you and - heavens, there's  
something fabulously different  
about you, isn't there? Something  
so delightfully different I could  
not help but notice it immediately.

Pinkie Pie happens by.

158 PINKIE PIE

You're talking to yourself. That's  
kinda different.

159 RARITY  
Go away!

Pinkie Pie continues on her merry way, exiting.

160 PINKIE PIE  
La la la la la ...

Rarity then looks up, and brightens.

ANGLE ON Spike hurrying along.

Rarity bounds off excitedly to catch up with Spike...

... she then sneaks off ahead of him...

... and then selects a strategic spot along his route to wait so she can look laconic and then "bump into him casually."

Then, as Spike approaches...

161 RARITY  
Oh, Spike. I didn't even notice  
that you were -

162 SPIKE  
(without breaking stride)  
Sorry Rarity. Not a good time.

Spike walks right on by. Rarity looks on, dumbfounded.

163 RARITY  
"Not a good time???"

#### **INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY - A LITTLE LATER**

Twilight is still completely absorbed in her reading, so much so that she doesn't even seem to notice Spike, who has just RUN into the room, PANTING.

164 SPIKE  
Twilight, there's been a big change  
in my situation, and I felt it my  
sworn duty to keep you in the loop.

A beat. Twi keeps on reading, not even looking up.

165 TWILIGHT  
Mmmmm-hmmmm.

166 SPIKE

And being an honorable dragon,  
since Applejack just saved my life  
from a horrible, dragon-eating  
pantheon, I believe it my duty to  
serve her morning noon and night  
for the rest of my natural born  
days. I'm sure you understand.

A beat.

167 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Sorry to break the news to you like  
this, but I felt the best way to  
handle it was to just come out and  
say it.

A beat.

168 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Farewell.  
(tearing up)  
It's been an honor to serve you.

Spike RUSHES OUT. Twilight hasn't looked up once.

169 TWILIGHT

(turning a page)  
Mmmmm-hmmmm. Sounds good. Just  
make sure to be back by dinner...

EXT. PONYVILLE - MOMENTS LATER

Spike is rushing on his way back to Sweet Apple Acres... but  
then has to HIT THE BRAKES.

Rarity stands right in his path.

170 RARITY

(acting casual)  
Oh Spike, what a surprise -

Spike tries to get around to the right, but she blocks him.

171 RARITY (CONT'D)

- seeing you -

Spike tries to get around to the left, but she blocks him.

172 RARITY (CONT'D)  
- here. So tell me, what's the  
"mane" thing different you notice  
about me?

Spike finally succeeds in getting past her.

173 RARITY (CONT'D)  
(calling after)  
What is going on? Is it the  
crinkleberries? I found some so...  
you can come back now, right?

174 SPIKE (O.S.)  
I have to go take care of  
Applejack!

175 RARITY  
You have to what? Spike?  
(no answer, then, sad)  
Oh... poo...

**INT. RARITY'S SHOPPE - LATER**

Rarity stands in front of a mirror, checking herself out.

176 RARITY  
Oh Spike, be a dear and grab me a  
purple belt from my belt box, would  
you? Spike?

She looks over to where Spike would be. There's no one.

177 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Oh right. Silly me. I - I suppose  
I'll just get it myself.

She walks over to rummage through the belt box, then notices  
through the window Pinkie Pie strolling by.

178 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Pinkie, how lucky you should happen  
by. You can be my assistant today!

179 PINKIE PIE  
Okey-dokey-lokey.

Rarity opens the door. Pinkie enters.

180 RARITY  
Grab me a purple belt from that  
box, would you, sweetheart?

Rarity returns to the mirror while Pinkie quickly grabs something from the box and returns.

181 PINKIE PIE  
Here you go.

182 RARITY  
What's this?

183 PINKIE PIE  
The purple belt.

184 RARITY  
That's orange. Not purple.

185 PINKIE PIE  
Close enough.

186 RARITY  
That's not close at all! Orange is nothing like purple!

187 PINKIE PIE  
Sure it is. They're both colors, right? You know what's nothing like purple? A turnip's nothing like purple. Neither is a ladder. Or a turkey beak.

A beat. Rarity stares in disbelief.

188 RARITY  
(sigh)  
I miss Spike.

189 PINKIE PIE  
Aw don't be sad. Hey, look at me.  
(making crazy faces)  
Blah blah blah. Hooie hooie hooie.  
Nyort ping blang. Shponga shponga shponga.

Rarity still stares at Pinkie in disbelief.

190 RARITY  
Go away.

191 PINKIE PIE  
Okey-dokey-lokey.  
(exiting)  
La la la la la la...

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - CIDER PRESS - LATER**

Applejack and Spike are in a tug-of-war over a bundle of hay, yanking it back and forth. (NOTE: Though Applejack is frustrated, Spike remains eager and good-natured throughout.)

192 APPLEJACK  
Let go!

193 SPIKE  
But I have to do this for you.

194 APPLEJACK  
I can roll this hay myself. I've been rolling hay every since I can remember. I'm not gonna stop now.

195 SPIKE  
But you saved my life. You have to let me repay you.

196 APPLEJACK  
I already let you repay me. What about pressing the apple cider?

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - FLASHBACK**

Applejack and Spike struggle over the cider press, which only has one lever.

197 APPLEJACK  
Let go. I can do this.

198 SPIKE  
Let me! Let me!

Applejack relents. Spike struggles to budge the lever.

199 SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Argh! This is hard.

200 APPLEJACK  
Let me do it then.

201 SPIKE  
I got this. Go away.



Applejack reacts, miffed.

202 APPLEJACK (V.O.)  
Or deworming those apples?

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - FLASHBACK**

Spike prunes up his face while he pulls a worm from an apple.

203 SPIKE  
Okay, this is just plain gross.

204 APPLEJACK  
Step aside then. I'll do it myself.

205 SPIKE  
You saved my life. Now sit down and rest. I've got this.

206 APPLEJACK  
But -

207 SPIKE  
Sit!

Applejack sits.

208 APPLEJACK (V.O.)  
Or cleaning out the cider barrels?

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - FLASHBACK**

Spike scoops goop and muck from the bottom of a barrel.

209 SPIKE  
Wow. Who knew apples could actually make something so disgusting.

210 APPLEJACK  
It's a natural byproduct of the cider process. Nothing disgusting about it.

211 SPIKE  
Man, you need a break from this more than I thought.

212 APPLEJACK  
But -

213 SPIKE  
Sit!  
(then, firmer)  
I said sit that horse fanny down.

Resistance is futile... Applejack sits again.

**EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - BACK TO PRESENT**

Applejack and Spike still struggle over the bundle of hay.

214 APPLEJACK  
I like rolling hay. I like  
pressing cider. I like mucking  
apple pulp out of cider barrels. I  
like pulling worms out of apples.  
I don't just like it, I love it! I  
love all of it!

215 SPIKE  
Who could possibly love all these  
itchy, sweaty, gross, and  
disgusting jobs? Please. What  
kind of a fool do you take me for?

Spike finally YANKS the bundle free from Applejack and RUNS  
off toward the hay field.

216 APPLEJACK  
(calling after)  
I'm not lying. It's the truth. I  
swear!

217 SPIKE  
(getting to work)  
You're just saying that to get me  
off the hook so I don't have to do  
all this work for you anymore.  
That's what a nice, brave noble  
pony you are. It makes me only  
that much more devoted to serving  
you for the rest of my life.

218 APPLEJACK  
The rest of your life?? Are you  
kidding me!?

While Spike RESUMES ROLLING HAY, Applejack FLOPS back onto  
the ground in frustration. Then...

ANGLE ON Rarity ENCOUNTERING THIS TABLEAUX as she strolls up  
to Applejack from behind some bushes.

219 RARITY

Well, Applejack, I came all the way here to your damp and muddy corner of Ponyville in hopes of winning Spike back from you, but I see I am too late. Instead, I congratulate you. May you find much happiness together.

She turns to go.

220 APPLEJACK

Rarity, what in the great yellow noonday sun are you talking 'bout?

221 RARITY

Well, there's Spike doing your awful chores -

222 APPLEJACK

They ain't awful!

223 RARITY

And here you are, lounging, with not a care in the world. How can I possibly compete with that?

224 APPLEJACK

What the - ? You can have him back this instant if there were some way to convince him!

225 RARITY

Do not toy with my feelings.

226 APPLEJACK

I'm serious as a headache, like the brutal one I have right now. That dragon's driving me bonkers, but I can't get rid of him 'cause I saved his life and he figures he owes me, no matter what I have to say about it! I dunno what to do.

227 RARITY

Hmm... well, I can think of something, but you probably wouldn't approve...

228 APPLEJACK

Try me.

229 RARITY  
It involves a bit of fibbing...

230 APPLEJACK  
Fibbin', lyin', fabricatin'... at  
this point I'll try any of it.  
I'm in!

**EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - LATER**

Rarity stands with Applejack in the woods.

231 RARITY  
Okay, so the key here is for Spike  
to rescue you, just like you  
rescued him. That way you're both  
even and things can go back to the  
way they were.

232 APPLEJACK  
Sounds great.

233 RARITY  
But we must make it convincing.  
Since he already thinks you're  
trying to let him off the hook,  
he's got to be thoroughly convinced  
the danger is absolutely real.

Just then, Rarity and Applejack are approached by Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy, EACH WEARING HALF OF A PANTHEON COSTUME. Rainbow Dash has the panther-head half, while Fluttershy wears the boar-behind half.

234 APPLEJACK  
(re: costumes)  
Uh... and this is supposed to be a  
what?

Fluttershy and Rainbow Dash answer from inside the costume.

235 RAINBOW DASH/FLUTTERSHY  
A Pantheon costume.

236 RAINBOW DASH  
Duh.

237 RARITY  
I made it myself.

238 APPLEJACK  
I thought we were trying to be convincing.

239 RAINBOW DASH  
Ooh, burn!

240 FLUTTERSHY  
Don't worry. We'll sell it with a terrifying roar.

They all look at Fluttershy for a beat. She SHRINKS MEEKLY.

241 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)  
Er... well... at least Rainbow Dash will, anyway.

242 RARITY  
Now hide, quickly. Spike will be here any moment.

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy SCURRY off into the woods with their costumes. Applejack follow.

243 RARITY (CONT'D)  
(to Applejack)  
Not you! Come back here.  
(then)  
When Spike shows up, I want you to just act natural but then, when I give the signal, the "monster" will come. That's when you get your foot stuck so Spike has to come to your rescue.

244 APPLEJACK  
And you'll be there to help convince Spike to save me in case he gets to scared to do it?

245 RARITY  
Precisely.  
(then)  
Now remember, you must make Spike really and truly believe you need rescuing. Show me the your best damsel in distress moves.

246 APPLEJACK  
Uh... oh... well... how's this.

Applejack tries one..

247 RARITY  
Terrible. No, it's got to be more  
like this.

Rarity demonstrates a world-class swoon.

248 APPLEJACK  
Oh, okay. You mean like this?

Applejack tries again.

249 RARITY  
Absolutely horrendous. Okay, this  
needs some serious work.  
(demonstrates)  
Now first you must lift your  
foreleg up to your forehead like  
so...

250 APPLEJACK  
No time! Here he comes!

Spike pushes his way through the woods into the clearing.

251 SPIKE  
Rarity, what a surprise. I was  
expecting to see Applejack. She  
said she had a new chore for me to  
do. I can barely wait to find out  
what it is.

252 APPLEJACK  
I'm over here, Spike. I was just  
hoping you could maybe sweep up all  
these leaves for the compost pile  
and -

Spike WHIPS OUT a RAKE he brought.

253 SPIKE  
Ooh! I was hoping you would say  
that!

254 APPLEJACK  
And then maybe you could -  
(then, bad acting)  
- oh no, I seem to have got my hoof  
caught between two rocks. Perhaps  
I am in peril. This is where the  
pantheon almost attacked you, is it  
not. I am... a damsel in distress!

Rarity shakes her head at the pitiful display.

255 RARITY  
(under her breath)  
Terrible. Just terrible.

256 SPIKE  
Look, Applejack, if this is just  
another attempt to get me off the  
hook for paying you back for saving  
my life, I'm not buying it. You  
want me to rake these leaves or  
not?

257 APPLEJACK  
Help... rescue me... someone...

258 RARITY  
I don't know, Spike. Looks like  
someone should really help her  
before...

Rarity STOMPS her right back hoof. It's the signal.... and  
the pantheon-costumed ponies come ROARING into the clearing  
from the forest.

259 RARITY (CONT'D)  
... oh no, the pantheon!

260 FAKE PANTHEON  
<kinda mighty roar>

261 RARITY  
Someone save Applejack! Help!  
Someone!

262 SPIKE  
Oh please. I can see right through  
this act. She's fine.  
(then, to Rarity, flirty)  
Say, something's different. Mane  
parted on the other side, maybe?

263 RARITY  
Why, that's awfully nice of you to  
noti-

264 PANTHEON (O.S.)  
<truly mighty roar>

Hearing this, everyone looks around, including the ponies in  
the pantheon costume.

265 FAKE PANTHEON  
What was that?

Suddenly, the REAL PANTHEON comes STORMING out of the forest into the clearing.

266 APPLEJACK  
Oh no...

Applejack tries to free her leg, but it truly is stuck between two rocks.

267 RARITY  
You're really stuck???

268 APPLEJACK  
You said make it convincing!

269 PANTHEON  
<terrifying roar>

270 FAKE PANTHEON  
Run!

The FAKE PANTHEON SPLITS INTO TWO as Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy both high-tail it out of there.

271 RARITY  
Spike, hurry! Applejack's still stuck! We really do need someone to save Applejack now!

272 SPIKE  
Oh puh-lease. That first pantheon was a total bust, so now I'm supposed to believe the second one is real. How many fake pantheons to you have back there anyway?  
(then)  
You know, your mane really looks terrific that way. It's a nice change of pace.

273 RARITY  
You think so?

274 APPLEJACK  
Help?? Someone?? Anyone!!

The pantheon is closing in on Applejack.

275 RARITY  
Spike now!  
(nothing)  
Go!  
(MORE)



RARITY (CONT'D)  
(still nothing)  
Save her!

276 SPIKE  
Have you considered getting your  
mane layered.

277 RARITY  
Uch! Forget it!

Rarity LEAPS INTO ACTION, racing into harm's way and FREEING  
Applejack's leg just in time for them to both run out of  
there. The pantheon gives chase. Meanwhile...

278 SPIKE  
Look, I can see you guys are going  
all out here but there's not a  
chance I'll ever believe -

The pantheon gets right in Spike's face.

279 PANTHEON  
<withering roar>

280 SPIKE  
Gotta admit. You two really pulled  
out all the stops...

Applejack and Rarity ZIP over and YANK Spike along with them  
on their escape.

281 SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Yaaaah!

**EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - LATER**

Still escaping and carrying Spike, Applejack and Rarity slow  
down to a walk.

282 APPLEJACK  
I think we're in the clear.

283 SPIKE  
Man, that second pantheon was  
really convincing. You made his  
breath smell exactly as bad as the  
real thing.

284 APPLEJACK  
That was the real thing, Spike!  
Although you've somehow decided  
never to believe anything I say  
ever again.

285 SPIKE  
Is it true, Rarity? Was the second  
pantheon real. Because I know you  
would never lie to me.

286 APPLEJACK  
Unbelievable...

287 RARITY  
Yes. The last pantheon was real.

288 SPIKE  
Incredible. Rarity, you saved  
Applejack. You're a hero.

289 RARITY  
I'm not a hero. I'm a liar.  
(then, explaining)  
I sent you off to look for  
crinkeberries, only there's no such  
thing. I only wanted to get rid of  
you.

290 SPIKE  
Oh.

291 RARITY  
But now I miss you. And I want you  
back. But Applejack saved your  
life so now you owe her your life  
and I'll never have you back.

292 APPLEJACK  
Well... Rarity, you did save my  
life just now... and I saved  
Spike's life... so... maybe we  
could work out some kind of...  
trade?

They all exchange looks, considering this.

**INT. RARITY'S SHOPPE - LATER**

Rarity studies herself in the mirror. Then...

293 RARITY  
Take this down, Spike.

ANGLE ON Spike nearby, with parchment and pen.

294 SPIKE  
As you wish!

295 RARITY

Dear Princess Celestia, part of being friends is putting up with each other, even if your friend is sometimes a little...

296 SPIKE

... difficult? Challenging?  
(hopeful)  
Exceptionally good looking?

297 RARITY

(pointedly)

... annoying.  
(then, softening)  
But if you're not careful, you might stop appreciating what makes your friend truly wonderful. And you might lose that friend, only to find out too late how much you liked having them around.  
(then)  
Got that, Spike?

298 SPIKE

(warmly)

Got it.

Rarity returns her attention to the mirror.

299 RARITY

I'm thinking of switching the part in my mane back to where it was before. What do you think?

300 SPIKE

Ooh, that sounds like a chore.  
(then, excited)  
So I get to do it! I get to do it.  
(brushing, sing song)  
I get to do it... I get to do it...  
I get to do it...

301 RARITY

You're not really devoting the entire rest of your life to me, are you?

Spike stops brushing abruptly. He looks confused. Then Rarity smiles, and they SHARE A LAUGH.

SLAM TO BLACK.

END.